Message Text

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ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00

FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15

STR-04 OIC-02 FRB-03 /136 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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DEPARTMENT PASS TREASURY AND FRB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, ENRG, OECD, UK

SUBJECT: DRAFT IEA POSITION PAPER ON INDEXATION OF OIL PRICES

REF: STATE 175861

1. MRS. MARY HEDLEY-MILLER, UNDER SECRETARY, H.M. TREAS-URY, ASKS THAT FOLLOWING MESSAGE BE PASSED TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY PARSKY IN TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

A. THANK YOU FOR THE DRAFT POSITION PAPER ON OIL PRICE INDEXATION WHICH WE RECEIVED FROM MR. AMMERMAN ON 28 JULY.

B. YOU WILL UNDERSTAND THAT I DO NOT AT THIS STAGE TAKE A POSITION ON THE INDEXATION ISSUE ON BEHALF OF HMG. THIS WILL BE FOR THE UK'S REPRESENTATIVES IN YOUR AD HOC GROUP AND ELSEWHERE, AS NECESSARY, IN THE IEA BUT I DO THINK THAT THE PAPER WILL PROVIDE A USEFUL BASIS FOR DISCUSSION AMONG OUR COLLEAGUES IN THE AD HOC GROUP.

C. THE GROUP WILL NO DOUBT WISH TO CONSIDER PARTICULAR-LY CAREFULLY THE PRECISE FORMULATION OF THE RECOMMENDED IEA POSITION -- SECTION P -- AND THE TALKING POINTS --LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SECTION Q -- WHICH WILL IN EFFECT EMBODY THE TACTICS WHICH THE IEA WOULD PROPOSE TO FOLLOW IN DISCUSSING THIS DIFFICULT ISSUE WITH THE OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES.

D. ON THE TIMING OF THE NEXT MEETING OF YOUR AD HOC GROUP, WE SHOULD BE GRATEFUL TO KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHAT YOU PROPOSE. AS I SAID IN MY EARLIER MESSAGE THE UK WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO ATTEND A MEETING IN

WASHINGTON IN SEPTEMBER IF THIS TOOK PLACE BETWEEN TUESDAY, 2 SEPTEMBER, AND SUNDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER.

2. COMMENT: DURING ORAL CONVERSATIONS WITH RUSSELL BARRATT, DEPUTY SECRETARY, H.M. TREASURY, AND MRS.

BARRATT, DEPUTY SECRETARY. H.M. TREASURY, AND MRS.
HEDLEY-MILLER, THEY BOTH EXPRESSED STRONGER AGREEMENT WITH
THE BASIC ANTI-INDEXATION POSITION TAKEN IN THE DRAFT IEA
POSITION PAPER THAN SHOWS THROUGH IN THE WRITTEN RESPONSE
QUOTED ABOVE. MRS. HEDLEY-MILLER MADE DISTINCTION BETWEEN
THE GENERAL POSITION AGAINST INDEXATION, WHICH SHE SAID
SHE GENERALLY AGREED WITH QUITE STRONGLY, BUT WAS MORE
NUANCED IN TERMS OF THE TONE AND POSTURE TO BE TAKEN BY
IEA IN ACTUAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES

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